

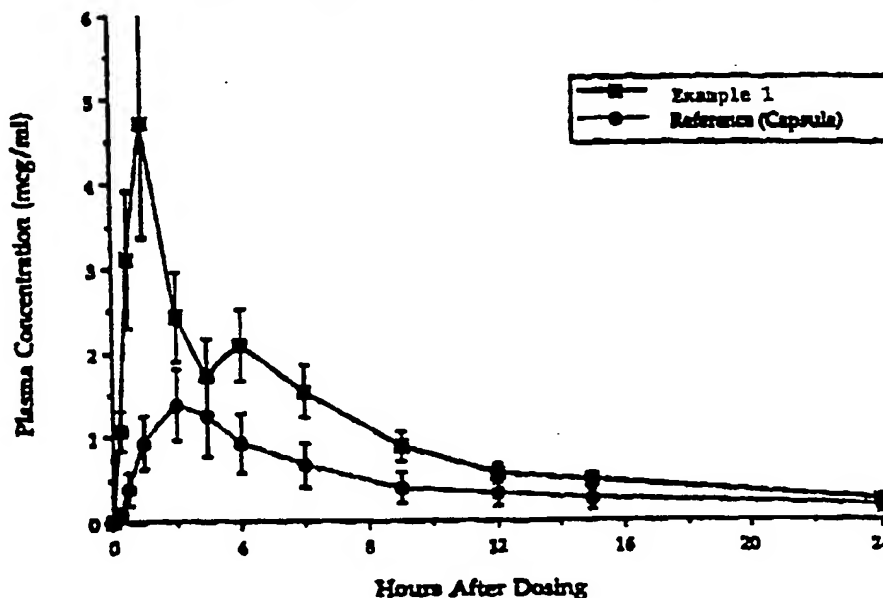


INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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(54) Title: NOVEL FORMULATIONS COMPRISING LIPID-REGULATING AGENTS

Mean (\pm SEM) Plasma Concentrations of Fenofibric Acid
after a 67 mg Dose of Fenofibrate in Fasted Dogs



(57) Abstract

The present invention is directed to a formulation comprising a lipid-regulating agent dissolved or dispersed in at least one oil and an emulsifier or emulsifier blend, the resulting mixture being capable of forming an emulsion upon dilution in an aqueous medium.

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Novel Formulations Comprising Lipid-Regulating Agents

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to novel formulations comprising lipid-regulating agents.

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Background of the Invention

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2-[4-(4-chlorobenzoyl)phenoxy]-2-methyl-propanoic acid, 1-methylethylester, also known as fenofibrate, is representative of a broad class of compounds having pharmaceutical utility as lipid regulating agents. More specifically, this compound is part of a lipid-regulating agent class of compounds commonly known as fibrates, and is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,058,552.

20

Fenofibrate has been prepared in several different formulations, c.f., U.S. Patent No. 4,800,079 and U.S. Patent No. 4,895,726. U.S. Patent No. 4,895,726 discloses a co-micronized formulation of fenofibrate and a solid surfactant.

25

U.S. Patent No. 4,961,890 discloses a process for preparing a controlled release formulation containing fenofibrate in an intermediate layer in the form of crystalline microparticles included within pores of an inert matrix. The formulation is prepared by a process involving the sequential steps of dampening said inert core with a solution based on said binder, then projecting said fenofibrate microparticles in a single layer onto said dampened core, and thereafter drying, before said solution based on said binder dissolves said fenofibrate microparticles, and repeating said three steps in sequence until said intermediate layer is formed.

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European Patent Application No. EP0793958A2 discloses a process for producing a fenofibrate solid dosage form utilizing fenofibrate, a surface active agent and polyvinyl pyrrolidone in which the fenofibrate particles are mixed with a polyvinyl pyrrolidone solution. The thus obtained mixture is granulated with an aqueous solution of one or more surface active agents, and the granulate thus produced is dried.

PCT Publication No. WO 82/01649 discloses a fenofibrate formulation having granules that are comprised of a neutral core that is a mixture of saccharose and starch. The neutral core is covered with a first layer of fenofibrate, admixed with an excipient and with a second microporous outer layer of an edible polymer.

U.S. Patent No. 5,645,856 describes the use of a carrier for hydrophobic drugs, including fenofibrate, and pharmaceutical compositions based thereon. The carrier comprises a digestible oil and a pharmaceutically-acceptable surfactant component for dispersing the oil in vivo upon administration of the carrier, which comprises a hydrophilic surfactant, said surfactant component being such as not to substantially inhibit the in vivo lipolysis of the digestible oil.

Gemfibrozil is another member of the fibrate class of lipid-regulating agents. U.S. Patent No. 4,927,639 discloses a disintegratable formulation of gemfibrozil providing both immediate and sustained release, comprising a tablet compressed from a mixture of a first and second granulation, and a disintegration excipient operable to effect partial or complete disintegration in the stomach. The first granulation comprises finely divided particles of pure gemfibrozil granulated with at least one cellulose derivative, and the second granulation comprises finely divided particles of pure gemfibrozil granulated with a pharmaceutically-acceptable water soluble or insoluble

polymer which are then uniformly coated with a pharmaceutically-acceptable (meth)acrylate copolymer prior to admixture with the first granulation. The first and second granulations are present in the final composition in a ratio of from about 10:1 to about 1:10.

U.S. Patent 4,925,676 discloses a disintegratable gemfibrozil tablet providing both immediate and enteric release, which is compressed from a mixture of a first granulation of gemfibrozil with at least one acid-disintegratable binder, and a second granulation formed from the first granulation, but regranulated or coated with an alkali-disintegratable formulation of at least one substantially alkali-soluble and substantially acid-insoluble polymer.

Another class of lipid-regulating agents are commonly known as statins, of which pravastatin and atorvastatin are members. U.S. Patents 5,030,447 and 5,180,589 describe stable pharmaceutical compositions, which when dispersed in water have a pH of at least 9, and include a medicament which is sensitive to a low pH environment, such as pravastatin, one or more fillers such as lactose and/or microcrystalline cellulose, one or more binders, such as microcrystalline cellulose (dry binder) or polyvinylpyrrolidone (wet binder), one or more disintegrating agents such as croscarmellose sodium, one or more lubricants such as magnesium stearate and one or more basifying agents such as magnesium oxide.

It is an object of the present invention to provide formulations of lipid-regulating agents having enhanced bioavailability and longer half-life when compared to commercially available formulations.

Summary of the Invention

5 The present invention is directed to a formulation comprising a lipid-regulating agent dissolved in an oil, with subsequent emulsification using one or more emulsifiers. This formulation forms fine and stable emulsions. The emulsions result in an increase in drug solubility, oral bioavailability and half-life.

10 The formulation may be administered directly, diluted into an appropriate vehicle for administration, encapsulated into soft or hard gelatin shells or capsules for administration, or administered by other means obvious to
15 those skilled in the art.

Brief Description of the Drawings

20 Figure 1 is a graph showing the plasma concentration in fasted dogs of the formulation of Example 1 and a reference compound.

Detailed Description of the Invention

25 The bulk lipid-regulating agent may be prepared by any available method, as for example the compound fenofibrate may be prepared by the procedure disclosed in U.S. Patent
30 No. 4,058,552, or the procedure disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,739,101, both herein incorporated by reference.

35 The solution comprising the lipid-regulating agent is prepared by dissolving said agent in the oil with adequate mixing. An emulsifier or emulsifier blend is added to said mixture and mixed until uniform. If desired, water can be

then added to the resulting mixture with agitation to form a uniform emulsion.

The delivery system of the present invention results in increased solubility, half-life and bioavailability of the lipid-regulating agent. It can be further diluted with additional liquids or it may be thickened and/or stabilized with various pharmaceutical excipients to vary its existing properties.

Suitable oils include, but are not limited to, any pharmaceutically acceptable oil, such as, for example, soybean oil, coconut oil, canola oil, corn oil, palm kernel oil, cottonseed oil, olive oil, peanut oil, safflower oil and sesame oil.

Suitable emulsifiers include any pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophilic or lipophilic emulsifier or combinations thereof, such as, for example, phospholipids, polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid derivatives, sorbitan fatty acid derivatives, polyoxyl-35-castor oil (Cremophor EL, available from BASF), castor oil or hydrogenated castor oil ethoxylates, polyglycerol esters of fatty acids, fatty acid ethoxylates, alcohol ethoxylates, polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene co-polymers and block co-polymers, and TPGS (d-alpha tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate). Preferred emulsifiers include polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid derivatives, sorbitan fatty acid derivatives and polyoxyl-35-castor oil (Cremophor EL, available from BASF).

Other optional ingredients which may be included in the compositions of the present invention are those which are conventionally used in oil-based drug delivery systems, e.g. antioxidants such as, for example, tocopherol, ascorbyl palmitate, ascorbic acid, butylated hydroxytoluene, butylated hydroxyanisole, propyl gallate, etc.; pH stabilizers such as, for example, citric acid, tartaric

acid, fumaric acid, acetic acid, glycine, arginine, lysine, potassium hydrogen phosphate, etc.; thickeners/suspending agents such as, for example, hydrogenated vegetable oils, beeswax, colloidal silicon dioxide, gums, celluloses, silicates, bentonite, etc.; flavoring agents such as, for example, cherry, lemon, aniseed flavors, etc.; sweeteners such as, for example, aspartame, saccharin, cyclamates, etc.; and co-solvents, such as, for example, ethanol, propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, dimethyl isosorbide, etc.

The resulting liquid comprising the lipid-regulating agent may be dosed directly for oral administration, diluted into an appropriate vehicle for oral administration, filled into soft or hard shells or capsules for oral administration, or delivered by some other means obvious to those skilled in the art. The said liquid can be used to improve the oral bioavailability, and increase the half-life and solubility of said lipid-regulating agent.

The invention will be understood more clearly from the following non-limiting representative examples:

Example 1

SR Soybean oil (24.33 g) was added to a beaker and fenofibrate (0.67 g) was dissolved in it by stirring. Sorbitan monooleate (2.5 g) was added to the beaker and mixed until uniform. Polysorbate 80 (0.5 g) was then added and mixed until uniform. Finally water (72 g) was added slowly with constant mixing until a uniform emulsion resulted.

Example 2

SR Soybean oil (24 g) is added to a beaker and pravastatin (1 g) is dispersed in it by stirring. Sorbitan monooleate (2.5 g) is added to the beaker and mixed until uniform. Polysorbate 80 (0.5 g) is then added and mixed until uniform. Finally water (72 g) is added slowly with constant mixing until a uniform emulsion resulted.

Example 3

SR Soybean oil (24 g) is added to a beaker and atorvastatin (1 g) is dispersed in it by stirring. Sorbitan monooleate (2.5 g) is added to the beaker and mixed until uniform. Polysorbate 80 (0.5 g) is then added and mixed until uniform. Finally water (72 g) is added slowly with constant mixing until a uniform emulsion resulted.

Example 4

The emulsion prepared by the process described in Example 1, and from a commercial fenofibrate composition, Lipanthyl 67M (Groupe Fournier) (Reference), were administered to a group of dogs at a dose of 67 mg fenofibrate/dog (10 mL emulsion or one capsule/dog). The plasma concentrations of fenofibric acid were determined by HPLC. Concentrations were normalized to a 6.7 mg/kg dose in each dog. Figure 1 presents the resulting data in graph form. The results provided as mean \pm SD, n=6, were as follows:

Lipanthyl 67M (Reference):

$C_{max} = 1.88 \pm 0.97 \text{ mcg/ml}$

$T_{max} = 1.6 \pm 0.9 \text{ hr}$

$t_{1/2} = 4.5 \text{ hr}$

5 $AUC (0-24) = 11.08 \pm 9.42 \text{ mcg}\cdot\text{hr/ml}$

Emulsion of Example 1:

$C_{max} = 4.97 \pm 3.13 \text{ mcg/ml}$

$T_{max} = 1.1 \pm 0.5 \text{ hr}$

10 $t_{1/2} = 7.8 \text{ hr}$

$AUC (0-24) = 24.21 \pm 11.69 \text{ mcg}\cdot\text{hr/ml}$

$AUC \text{ relative to Reference} = 2.2$

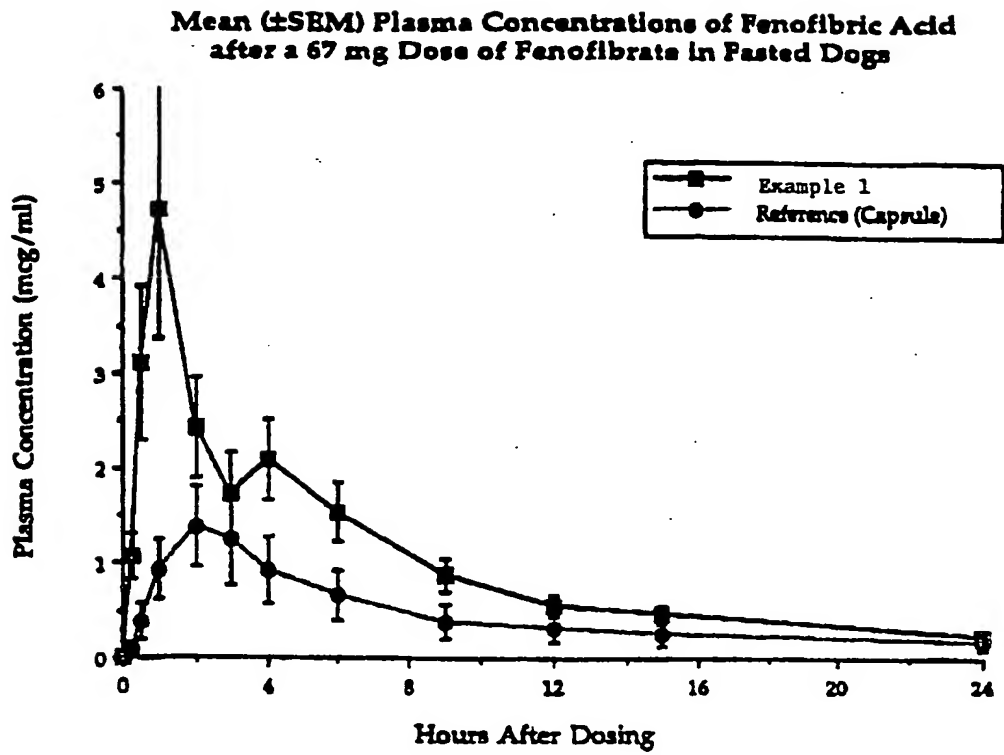
Claims

1. A composition comprising a lipid-regulating agent dissolved or dispersed in at least one oil with one or more emulsifiers, wherein the mixture is capable of forming an emulsion upon dilution with an aqueous phase.
2. A composition of claim 1 wherein said lipid-regulating agent is a fibrate.
3. A composition of claim 2 wherein said fibrate is fenofibrate.
4. A composition of claim 1 wherein said lipid-regulating agent is a statin.
5. A composition of claim 4 wherein said statin is pravastatin.
6. A composition of claim 4 wherein said statin is atorvastatin.
7. A composition of claim 1 wherein at least one or more of said emulsifiers is selected from phospholipids, polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid derivatives, sorbitan fatty acid derivatives, Polyoxyl-35-castor oil (Cremophor EL, available from BASF), castor oil or hydrogenated castor oil ethoxylates, polyglycerol esters of fatty acids, fatty acid ethoxylates, alcohol ethoxylates, polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene co-polymers and block co-polymers, and TPGS (d-alpha tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate).
8. A composition of claim 7 wherein at least one or more of said emulsifiers is polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty

acid derivatives, sorbitan fatty acid derivatives and polyoxyl-35-castor oil.

- 5 9. A composition of claim 1 wherein said oil is selected from soybean oil, coconut oil, canola oil, corn oil, palm kernel oil, cottonseed oil, olive oil, peanut oil, safflower oil and sesame oil.
- 10 10. A composition of claim 9 wherein said oil is soybean oil.
11. A composition of claim 1 further comprising a co-solvent.
- 15 12. A composition of claim 11 wherein said co-solvent is ethanol, propylene glycol or polyethylene glycol.
13. A delivery system comprising a composition of claim 1.
- 20 14. A delivery system of claim 13 wherein said delivery system is an emulsion.
15. A delivery system of claim 13 wherein said delivery system is a capsule.
- 25 16. A method of treating hyperlipidemia comprising the administration of a composition of claim 1 to a patient.
- 30 17. A method of treating hyperlipidemia comprising the administration of a composition of claim 3 to a patient.
- 35 18. A method of treating hyperlipidemia comprising the administration of a composition of claim 14 to a patient.

FIGURE 1



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int: onal Application No

PCT/US 00/07650

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61K9/48 A61K9/107 A61K47/10 A61K47/26 A61K47/44
A61P3/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, BIOSIS, CHEM ABS Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|---------------------------------|
| X | <p>US 5 645 856 A (LACY JONATHAN ERNEST ET AL) 8 July 1997 (1997-07-08) cited in the application column 1, line 4 - line 7 column 3, line 56 -column 4, line 14 column 4, line 36 -column 5, line 51 column 6, line 34 -column 7, line 55 column 8, line 45 -column 9, line 14 column 12, line 22 - line 23 column 12, line 54 -column 13, line 7 column 13, line 47 - line 57; claims 1-8,15-17; example 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">--- -/--</p> | <p>1-3, 7-10,15, 18</p> |



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 August 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

11/08/2000

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|--------------------------------|
| X | EP 0 031 603 A (AMERICAN CYANAMID CO) 8 July 1981 (1981-07-08) page 1, line 4 - line 19 page 3, line 9 - line 17 page 4, line 12 - line 22 page 4, line 33 - page 5, line 2 page 5, line 26 - line 30; claims 1-8; example 5 ---- | 1,7,9, 13-18 |
| X | US 4 946 866 A (WOLF HORST ET AL) 7 August 1990 (1990-08-07) column 1, line 36 - line 60 column 2, line 22 - line 43; claims 1,13,14; example 1 ---- | 1,7, 13-18 |
| X | GB 1 590 864 A (LILLY INDUSTRIES LTD) 10 June 1981 (1981-06-10) page 1, line 41 - line 52 page 2, line 23 - line 63; claims; example 1 ---- | 1,2, 10-14 |
| A | EP 0 700 678 A (WAKAMOTO PHARMA CO LTD) 13 March 1996 (1996-03-13) page 1, line 3 - line 5 page 4, line 9 - line 13 page 4, line 58 - last line; claims 1,6-9 ---- | 1,4,5,9, 10,13, 14,16-18 |
| P,X | WO 99 29300 A (MISHRA AWADHESH K ;PARIKH INDU (CA); MOUSSA ISKANDAR (CA); RTP PHA) 17 June 1999 (1999-06-17) page 1, line 1 - line 2 page 5, paragraph 2 - page 8, paragraph 1 page 9, paragraph 2 - page 10, paragraph 1; claims; examples ----- | 1-3,7, 11-18 |

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Present claims 1-18 relate to a compound defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely a "lipid-regulating agent". The term "lipid-regulating agent" as used in the present independent claims 1, 13, 16-18 and in dependent claims 2-12, 14 and 15 defines the active agent by its pharmacological effect. However, a compound cannot be sufficiently characterised by its pharmacological effect as it is done by an expression like "lipid-regulating agent", because it is impossible to know which substances are encompassed in this expression. Moreover, a compound cannot be sufficiently characterised by the term "regulating", because this term has no well-recognised meaning and is therefore unclear.

The claims cover all compounds having this characteristic or property, whereas the application provides support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT for only a very limited number of such compounds. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT). An attempt is made to define the compound by reference to a result to be achieved. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for the concept of "lipid-regulating agent" and those parts of the claims which appear to be clear, supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the compounds mentioned in claims 2-6.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

information on patent family members

Inter national Application No

PCT/US 00/07650

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
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